

FOREIGN NEWS.

From the papers to hand by the steamer Zealandia we take the following information as to current events in foreign countries.

Commenting on the state of affairs in Ireland, and the action of the British Government in regard to them, the Melbourne Leader says:—"The first note of warning that the Irish agitators received was in a speech in which Mr. Gladstone severely condemned Mr. Parnell's policy of 'public plunder'."

The note of the whole of Europe was startled by the intelligence that he was arrested and incarcerated in Kilmainham jail. At first the report was received with incredulity, but another speech of Mr. Gladstone's, made at the Guildhall, settled the question. He affirmed and justified the arrest, announcing with warning emphasis that it was only the first step for the vindication of law and order in Ireland. The news of the capture of the arch agitator set the Land League in a blaze. It elected Mr. John Dillon to Mr. Parnell's place, and immediately issued a call for a meeting of the League at Dublin on the 10th inst. The meeting was held at the Guildhall, and was attended by a large number of the League's members, who had been actively engaged in its management; others have fled to France. Troops and ships of war are being concentrated, ready for action. The determined attitude and prompt action of the Government at first aroused a great outcry, and evoked many threats; but when these were found of no avail, a more politic course appears to have approved itself to the Land Leaguers, whose leaders began to advise the Leaguers to apply to the Land Commission for a decision of disputed questions with the object of creating a deadlock, and thus hampering the work of the Commission. Many of the fresh cases which have thus been submitted have, it is believed, been only referred to the Commission with the view of obstructing its labor. A telegram of the 4th inst. says:—"Several decisions lately given by the Irish Land Commission sitting at Belfast have been favorable to the tenants, and have in many cases had the effect of largely reducing the present rack rents payable by them on various estates."

The following contradictory accounts as to political developments in France appear side by side in the New Zealand Herald of 7th inst.:—"Paris, November 3. M. Gambetta having undertaken the task of forming a new Ministry, has resigned the presidency of the Chamber of Deputies, and M. G. Brisson, one of the vice-presidents, was elected today to the vacant position. Paris, Nov. 4.—On the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies today, M. Ferry, President of the Council, informed the Chamber that Ministers deferred for the present tendering their resignations, preferring to meet the proposed vote of censure of their policy in Tunis."

From the Colonies the most important item of news is the (hitherto) bloodless war which has taken place on the west coast of the North Island of New Zealand. Of this we give a full account in a separate article.

From Sydney we learn that though the cases are not very numerous, small-pox still continues to foot in that city and in some of its suburbs.

A telegram dated Sydney, 4th November, contains the following account of further trouble between natives of the Solomon Group and the white traders, which seems to have taken place on the trading schooner Atlantic, while visiting the Solomon Group, was attacked by the natives in a most determined manner. A desperate fight took place between the crew of the vessel and the islanders, during which several of the kanakas composing the crew were killed, but the natives were finally beaten off."

Captain Belknap, commander of the U. S. S. Albatross, reports from Callao that he has taken a series of soundings from San Lorenzo Island to a point in 11°44' S., and 78°29' W. The soundings showed a more abrupt descent of the ocean-bed than on a previous line run from Anson Bay. The Albatross remained at Callao till relieved by another cruiser, on account of the insecurity which prevailed among the American residents in Lima.

The disastrous hurricane which swept over Mexico last month is reported to have destroyed 300 houses.

SPORTS NEWS.—Mr. Keene's three-year-old Foxhall won the Cambridgehire Stakes at Newmarket, Lucy Glitters second, Triton third. Foxhall had been heavily backed both in England and America.—St. Julien and Trickett trotted a match at Philadelphia for a purse of \$5000. The track was deep and dusty. St. Julien won three heats in succession—in 2:17, 2:17, and 2:20. Trickett broke badly in the home stretch each time.—The special purse for trotting, given to two-year-olds by the Bay District Association (California) was won by Stanford's Wildflower in 2:21. This is claimed to be "the most wonderful exhibition of trotting ever witnessed in the juvenile ranks."

Aquatic Championship of the World.

A match for the championship of the world was to be rowed between Hansen and Ross, at Toronto, last month.

An exciting match is also likely to come off shortly, Trickett having challenged his old conqueror Hansen to row him in Canadian waters for \$1000 aside, and the latter has accepted the challenge. A Sydney paper suggests that Trickett, who can pretty well measure the capabilities of his opponent, feels that he is returning to his old form again. The bracing air of Canada may have wrought wonders in the physical condition of the Australian sculler towards restoring the tone of his nerves and muscles.

Destruction of Forests.

There are numbers of people who think that, owing to the peculiar geographical conformation of the country, we can afford to dispense with forests. These people argue that in any case the westerly winds will deposit their moisture on the mountains which they first strike, and that, naturally situated as is New Zealand, it would be next to impossible for it to be afflicted with extensive droughts. Nothing can be more erroneous than such an idea. The New Zealand Herald, in treating on this subject, draws out a list of islands that have become almost barren through their forests being destroyed. St. Helena, for instance, when discovered in 1502 was an island covered with verdure. The settlers however cut down the woods, and in the 18th century there were no periods of visitations of very severe drought, occasioning ruinous losses of cattle and crops. By the commencement of the present century St. Helena was little more than a burnt-up rock. But the East Indian Company soon took the matter in hand, and planted extensively, and by 1847 the rainfall had become double what it was when Napoleon was there. All this happened on a small island, a mere speck in the middle of the ocean, where moisture-bearing winds might have been expected to deposit their burden in any case. Cape Verde Islands too, once green and pleasant, have been for more than a century desolated by terrible droughts occasioned by the same cause. And so with other islands, it has in all cases been found that when the timber is destroyed, the country becomes dry and barren. And not only this, but in the case of mountainous countries, it often becomes impossible to plant the hills again, for the rain washes the soil off the slopes when, once they are deprived of their leafy shelter. These facts show that New Zealand is under a specially favorable disposition with regard to its rainfall, and is quite independent of the climatic influence of its forests, are very much mistaken.—New Zealand Paper. (These remarks are peculiarly applicable to the Hawaiian Archipelago.) Kahoolawe is an illustration of the devastation that follows denudation. Other large tracts in the islands have become howling wildernesses, through loss of natural covering of forest or brush. Hawaii needs stringent forest regulations. —E. P. C. A.]

Miscellaneous Items.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.—The Rev. Robert Mackenzie of San Francisco, in a discourse on "Science and Religion," referred to the appearance of a notable celestial visitor. As reported in the Chronicle, he said: "This is a star which is sometimes called the Star of Bethlehem, and which, according to some astronomical calculations, is now due, and may at any time blaze forth in all its brilliancy and celestial glory. This star was last seen in 1572. It shone out suddenly where no star was visible before, and was so bright that it could be seen at noon. It gradually faded, assuming various hues as it did so, until it disappeared. This wonderful star is believed to have been seen in the years 1264 and 142. Its apparent period of extended backward indicates an appearance of this star about the time of the birth of Christ; hence its name, Star of Bethlehem. If you wish to know where to watch for it, look some forty degrees to the southwest of Jupiter, and you will see a group of stars arranged thus:—

These are in the constellation Cassiopeia, and the letter 'O' shows where the great star is expected to appear.

A wonderful deliverance has come to Hilo, in the Sandwich Islands, the scene of the labors of venerable Titus Coan. For about eight months a vast stream of lava has been pouring forth from Kilauea, and varying in width from one half mile to four miles, it has slowly moved on for forty miles, down towards Hilo, and is now about to reach the town. It seemed for a time almost inevitable that the bay would be filled and that Hilo would become another Herculaneum. But when within eight hundred yards of the town the stream ceased to flow, and the cooling lava became as rock. To the inexpressible relief of the anxious but prayerful people Hilo was saved.—Missionary Herald.

A CRIMINAL FORGEY.—At the Omaha National Bank may be seen a \$20 bill executed entirely with a pen by some expert penman and forger. It is very skillfully done, and not one person out of a hundred would detect it without the closest examination, and even then the chances are that the detection would be purely accidental. It is executed in all the various colored inks used on bank notes, and even the paper itself is made to look like bank paper by little strokes of a pen. This bill is really a wonderful curiosity. It was paid to the bank by a Government official, through whose hands it passed without detection. It was received at the bank, but its true character was soon afterwards discovered. The execution of the bill probably required two days' hard work, which would give the forger \$10 a day for his labor. He has probably set about many of these bills, as well as bills of larger denomination, and it is likely that the twenty dollar bill above mentioned has passed through hundreds of hands without detection.

EMILE DE GIRARDIN paid Chateaubriand 2,000 francs for a contribution not longer than a Bank of England note, but the letter doubled his circulation. It has been ascertained that for success as an author, as for a politician, it is essential to have the ladies on your side.

At a meeting of the carpenters who are on strike in Paris, a speaker deplored the weakness of some of the men accepting the terms offered by employers, the treason he attributed to the bad example left by Bazaine!

An old soldier complained of a porcelain manufacturer receiving the red ribbon of the Legion of Honor, "the porcelain is better than himself, for it is never decorated till it has undergone fire."

DR. to a non-in-law: "Your mother-in-law is very unwell, her tongue is extremely foul." "That convinces me Doctor, she is in robust health."

A HUSBAND on coming home, found his wife cutting out some article of dress from the refuse covering of an umbrella. "Always a prodigal," he exclaimed, shaking his fist at her.

BRIDE: "Oh! mamma you know I am not entitled to wear orange blossoms." "Tut, tut, my dear, you know they are only artificial flowers."

MARINE NOTES.

The following description of the loss of the bark Titmouse, Capt. Norris, is taken from the Sydney Morning Herald:—

"One of the most painful marine casualties that have occurred off the Australian coast for sometime happened on Thursday, October 20th, some 260 miles from Cape Howe, where the bark Titmouse, commanded by Captain Norris, was wrecked. The vessel was on her way from the far north, where she had been engaged in the whaling trade, and was bound for Melbourne with a cargo of timber, and had a good voyage till the night of the 18th October, when a sale squall sprang up and lasted until the following morning, and then it subsided for a time, but was suddenly surprised by a terrific sea which struck the vessel in the bow, and caused her to founder. It was ascertained that the vessel had been struck by a wave, and that the crew had been thrown overboard. The vessel was found to be a fine one, and was well equipped for her service. The crew consisted of 12 men, and the vessel was well supplied with provisions. The only cause of the disaster was the sudden change of weather, which was not anticipated by the captain. The vessel was found to be a fine one, and was well equipped for her service. The crew consisted of 12 men, and the vessel was well supplied with provisions. The only cause of the disaster was the sudden change of weather, which was not anticipated by the captain."

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